

# Friends of Iziko South African Museum

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Non-profit Organisation 052-511-NPO

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2009

By the time you receive this newsletter annual holidays will be but a happy memory and you can look ahead to this year's interesting lectures and outings to new places as well as return visits to some 'golden oldies'. We hope to see you regularly and look forward to sharing the rich resources we have been able to in the past. Read on!

**LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2009:** Lectures are scheduled on the last Tuesday of each month from February to November and take place in the T H Barry Lecture Theatre at 19:00, unless otherwise advertised; drinks are served from 18:30. Lectures are free to members on presentation of a current membership card and non-members pay R20.

### TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2009

**Speaker:** John Taylor – Committee member

#### *Secrets of Jordan*

Explore the hidden valleys of the carved rock village of Petra, visit the Seven Pillars of Wisdom and relive the romance and drama of Lawrence of Arabia. Travel the King's Highway and marvel at the ruins of ancient Roman cities in Amman, Jerash, Umm Qays and Madaba. Hike the valleys of Dana Nature Reserve and visit the Dead Sea and the Red Sea holiday resort of Aqaba. John will take you on a journey exploring these fascinating places so filled with history and often mystery.

### TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2009

**Speaker:** Dr Simon van Noort – Curator of Entomology, Natural History Division, Iziko South African Museum.

#### *The figging less travelled road to Kibale (Uganda) ... and back: a biological expedition from Cape Agulhas to the equator*

Join entomologist Simon van Noort on a virtual three-month insect-hunting expedition through nine countries. Simon and Michael McLeish traversed 20 500km, often across atrocious roads, endured vehicle breakages, sunken ferries, corrupt border officials and AK47's stuck in their sides. These setbacks did not deter them from recording 1 500 fig trees in a trail across half of the African continent, and in the process collecting hundreds of fig wasp species. Critical data collected on this trip will contribute towards unraveling the evolution of the obligate mutualism between pollinator fig wasps and their keystone host fig species. Mid-trip they took a break from the vehicle and spent four weeks intensively sampling insects and figs in Kibale Forest (Uganda) which has the highest primate density in the world.

### TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009

**Speaker Professor John Parkington** – Department of Archaeology at UCT

#### *Too old for dating? Stone tools, eggshells and decorated objects*

Since 1986 Professor John Parkington and his team have excavated a series of clearly and intentionally marked pieces of ostrich eggshell from the deposits in Diepkloof Cave on the

Verlorenvlei in the Western Cape. These all come from a particular part of the stratigraphy associated with stone tools that archaeologists conventionally refer to as Howiesons Poort, after a site in the Eastern Cape. Although these deposits are too old to date by radiocarbon dating, we do have luminescence age estimates for these eggs of about 65 000 years. This makes them among the earliest intentionally marked, arguably 'decorated', objects anywhere. In this presentation Professor Parkington will show the stratigraphic context of these interesting pieces and make some suggestions as to the social context in which they were made.

## **OUTINGS PLANNED FOR 2009**

### **ANGLO-BOER WAR HISTORIC TOUR: 4 – 5 April**

A repeat of the popular Anglo-Boer War Historic Tour weekend trip has again been planned by committee member, John Taylor, and will be lead by Michael Rice. The group will visit historic sites beginning with the Smuts Museum outside Riebeeck West, and continue on to overnight in Matjiesfontein, returning via Paarl to visit the Cape Rebels monument on Sunday afternoon. Booking is now open and full details are available from the Friends office.

**Cost:** Members – R1 025; Non-members – R1 225; Single supplement – R350

### **PRINCE ALBERT– GEM OF THE KAROO: 5–7 June**

Discover the natural wonders of this delightful Karoo town nestled at the foot of the towering Swartberg mountains with geologist/palaeontologist Dr Judy Maguire. Full details will be available during February. **Booking opens 1 March**

**Cost:** Members – R1 200; Non-members – R1 500

### **FOSSIL HUNT 2009 with Roger Smith: 19–23 August**

The 2009 fossil-hunting trip with Dr Roger Smith will be in the Victoria West district this year, with accommodation at Melton Wold. Full details will be available during March.

**Booking opens 2 April**

### **CLANWILLIAM AND THE LANTERN FESTIVAL: 12–14 September**

Spend a day with archaeologist Professor John Parkington, visit the Living Landscape Project and join in the celebration of the Lantern Festival on the Sunday evening. Before returning home on Monday morning it may be possible to still see the last of the spring flowers.

Details will be available in April, and booking opens on 5 May.

### **INTAKA ISLAND: Saturday 3 October**

Explore this ever-changing wetland area with Philke Cakebread. Discover the many bird species and indigenous plants in the tranquility of this natural oasis close to the City Bowl. See how a working wetland can exist in harmony with the largest shopping and entertainment complex in Africa. **Booking opens 1 June.**

**BOOKINGS FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS WILL ONLY BE SECURED WITH A 50% DEPOSIT**

**NIGHT SKY:** For those of you interested in the night skies you can keep informed by clicking onto the Iziko website: <http://www.iziko.org.za/planetarium/resources.html>

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2009:** Members will have already received information regarding annual renewal of membership included with the September and November newsletters. Membership is for a calendar year, January to December. If you have not already renewed your membership please do so before 31 March when your membership will officially come to an end. Do remember to return the completed renewal form which was sent to you last year as it is essential for keeping our database up to date.

1. Students and Seniors	R100.00 with e-mail	R150.00 without e-mail
2. Individual membership	R150.00 with e-mail	R200.00 without e-mail
3. Family membership	R250.00 with e-mail	R300.00 without e-mail

**WEBSITE** (<http://www.iziko.org.za/sam/friends.html>)

Keep up to date with activities at Iziko South African Museum on the website. This takes you directly to the Friends page where you will find the latest newsletter as well as previous newsletters. A membership application form and a gift membership form can also be downloaded should you wish to give one to a friend. You will also find images from previous outings which will give you an idea of the kind of activities enjoyed by the Friends.

**ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS:** I continue to receive unidentified deposits in the Friends bank account. If you do not receive your new membership card, please let me know when you made your deposit. Ensure when making an electronic transfer or depositing directly into the bank account that your name and the word 'subscription', or relevant activity, such as Fossil-hunting trip, is clearly stated and that you forward a copy of the transaction by fax, e-mail or post to the Friends office so we can trace your deposit.

**YOUR IDEAS FOR 2009:** Whilst the hard-working committee has a number of ideas for future lectures and outings, this is your organisation and we would like you to help in the planning process. Do let us know if there are interesting places you would like to visit or good speakers our members might like to hear.

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Friends office at the Iziko South African Museum is attended on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00–14:00. Should you wish to make contact at other times you may phone me on 072 225 6893 between 10:00–12:00, weekdays, and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as is possible. I will be out of action during February, but Jill Franks will be in the office at the above times.

### **WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS**

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Friends – we look forward to meeting you at our future activities.

Sally Dalgleish

Clive Kefford

Keri Muller

Lynn Danzinger

Roland Langley

*Maxine Davies*

*Editor – Newsletter*

*Friends of Iziko South African Museum*

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Lynn Danziger  
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